

Filed for intro on 01/20/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 546  
By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the members of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church upon the dedication of their new church building.

WHEREAS, it is highly fitting and appropriate that the elected officials of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to the dedicated members of those exemplary religious organizations who, through their hard work and dedication, have pieced together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States; and

WHEREAS, through their special endeavors, the members of these organizations have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, the parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church are most assuredly one such extraordinary group of people who are deserving of praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Fatima is tentatively scheduled to hold the dedication of its new building on March 4th of this year; and

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WHEREAS, before the establishment of Our Lady of Fatima in September of 1950, Catholics in Blount County and Sevier County had to travel to Knoxville to attend mass, except on the rare occasions when a visiting priest would say mass in someone's home; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1950, the Our Lady of Fatima parish was established with the saying of the first mass by the reverent Bishop William L. Adrian in the chapel of the McAmmon-Ammon Funeral Home with the holy Father Clunan presiding; and

WHEREAS, after meeting in private homes and at the Eagleton Village Community Center, the need for a permanent home was realized; and

WHEREAS, as a result, a house was leased on Ellis Avenue in Maryville and became the first Catholic Church in Blount County, with Bishop Adrian formally dedicating the new site; and

WHEREAS, as the result of magnificent growth, Our Lady of Fatima realized the necessity for a larger facility; and

WHEREAS, after much praying and planning, land was purchased at the corner of Hunt and Wright Roads in Alcoa, on the site of an existing church elementary school; and

WHEREAS, operated by two Sisters of Mercy and three lay teachers, the elementary school served the parish for 15 years, until it was closed in 1970; and

WHEREAS, by 1995, the building that had once seemed so spacious to the original 80 families no longer met the needs of the more than 500 families that attend today; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 1995, God blessed Our Lady of Fatima with the purchase of the AT&T property located on 6.47 acres at the corner of U.S. 129 and Louisville Road in Alcoa, with the adjoining 1.8 acres and 3000 square foot house purchased soon after; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the purchase of the land, plans were made to transform the AT&T office building into the Fatima Center as a temporary place of worship, and to serve as the site of the religious education program in the future; and

WHEREAS, while the renovations of the new Fatima Center were being completed, the blessed parishioners celebrated their weekend masses at the Fine Arts Center at Maryville College with daily mass being held in the basement of the rectory at the new site; and

WHEREAS, the Fatima Center was blessed on August 11, 1996, by the holy Bishop of Knoxville, Anthony J. O'Connell, with the official groundbreaking occurring on May 3, 1998; and

WHEREAS, barring any unforeseen delays, the faithful members of Our Lady of Fatima are scheduled to dedicate and move into their new church building on March 4th of this year; and

WHEREAS, since the initial stages of the latest building plans, the Our Lady of Fatima parish has steadily grown to a whopping 748 families. The stalwart parishioners fervently pray that God will continue to bless them in all future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the membership at Our Lady of Fatima has been fortunate to have been so blessed with several outstanding pastors, including Fathers Paul Clunan, John Baltz, James Murphy, Herbert Prescott, Paul Wortmann, James Murray, and Francis Shilling, with the esteemed Father Joseph Brando currently rendering astute service as Pastor; Fathers Xavier Mankel, Frank Brett, Thomas Moser and Gregory Boisvert have significantly contributed the success of the parish as Assistant Pastors; and

WHEREAS, the past has been good to Our Lady of Fatima, and the future promises to hold even more blessings for the good people who comprise the Church's membership; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Fatima is truly one of the great community organizations and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our state and nation, and the members of this fine parish should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to the Christian community and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate the parish of Our Lady of Fatima upon the dedication of its new building and wish its members all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.